

For Immediate Release:

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**Florida Legislature Reaches Milestone of 100 Maps from Floridians
to Aid in Redistricting Efforts**

Twenty-five times the number of maps submitted by Floridians compared to a decade ago

Tallahassee, Fla. – Following a statewide tour consisting of 26 meetings designed to gather public input into the redistricting process, House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) and Senate Reapportionment Committee Chairman Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) today announced the Florida Legislature has received the 100th publicly submitted map.

“Today, the Florida Legislature reached a tremendous milestone by receiving the 100th citizen-drawn redistricting plan. This is proof positive that Floridians want to play an active and significant role in the redistricting process; and we are grateful for their valuable insight into communities across Florida,” said Chairman Gaetz. “Never before have so many citizens taken the time to submit maps for the Legislature to use as a guide while redrawing Florida’s political boundary lines. While we repeatedly heard from special interest groups throughout the summer that they would have rather seen politicians draw redistricting plans in a Tallahassee echo chamber, we remained committed to collecting public input through our statewide redistricting tour and I sincerely believe that it has paid off, evidenced by the 100 maps that we’ve received to date.”

“Thanks to the Floridians that have submitted maps, shared ideas and voiced concerns, we have received more public input on redistricting than ever before,” said Chairman Weatherford. “I commend those that have taken the time to draw a map and encourage others to continue sending us your ideas.”

Click below to view a special video message from Chairman Weatherford and Chairman Gaetz regarding this important milestone in the redistricting process.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZV9cjAypnqg&feature=player_embedded

The number of maps submitted by Floridians during this redistricting cycle far exceeds the four maps submitted by public interest groups a decade ago. The maps submitted included:

- Submissions from 25 different counties.
- More than 2,600 potential districts.
- 81 created with Legislative redistricting applications; 18 created with third-party applications.
- At least 17 submissions from students, including a middle-school student, high school student, and attendees of USF, FGCU, Brevard Community College and Columbia University.

- 30 complete maps for Congress; 19 partial maps for Congress; 8 complete maps for the state House; 15 partial maps for the state House; 17 complete maps for the state Senate; 10 partial maps for the state Senate.

During the recent committee weeks, House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees have been discussing a host of options as they move closer to formally introducing maps in preparation of the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10. Floridians who have not submitted their ideas for maps may still do so via the Florida House's MyDistrictBuilder™ application or the Florida Senate's District Builder application available at www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting. Floridians may also submit their comments and suggestions directly to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov or RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov.

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